

# What's Going On?

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### Fire Public Education Program Receives An Award

#### Special points of interest:

- Bush School Consolidation Study
- Starlight Music Series
- Citizen University Wrap-up

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The Texas Fire Chiefs Association is very pleased to award the City of College Station Fire Department with the Association's second annual Lone Star Achievement Award. The prestigious Lone Star Achievement Award recognizes the best effort by a Texas Fire Department to provide innovative and progressive programs that directly enhance their community's quality of life.

College Station Fire Department's "Life Safety for High-Risk Residents Program" is a comprehensive community safety program that delivers both injury prevention and victim response services that can serve high-risk residents before, during, and after an emergency incident. For the year 2002, "The Life Safety for High Risk Residents Program" included presenting a Senior Citizens Police and Fire Academy to 15 senior citizens, implementation of a Smoke Alarm Installation Program which made contact to over 7,500 high-risk citizens, initiating a Neighborhood Door to Door Smoke Installation Campaign that made contact with over 1,200 homes and apartments, coordinated two Summer Safety Camps for 213 elementary children involved with the Lincoln Recreation Center and Kids Club, completed and presented a Risk Watch, which is an injury prevention program to over 600 College Hills elementary stu-

dents, and developed a Community Action Response Team (CART), which provides victim support during and after an emergency event.

According to Dr. Jim Gaston, Executive Director of the Texas Fire Chiefs Association, "Most fire department education programs are specific in nature; usually the programs are centered on a singular target audience to deliver proactive fire or injury prevention education, but the College Station Fire Department's "Life Safety for High-Risk Residents" is truly a unique program because it encompasses all types of proactive injury prevention programs and smoke detector inspection services to a range wide of citizens of all ages. The program truly makes a difference in protecting College Station citizens against all types of emergencies before they occur and, should citizens become a victim of an emergency, the program provides much needed support services".

The Texas Fire Chiefs Association Award Committee received five nominations for the Lone Star Achievement Award. In addition to the College Station Fire Department's "Life Safety for High-Risk Residents Program," the nominations included Edinburg Volunteer Fire Department: "Life Safety Program," Mission Fire Department: "Insurance Service Organization (ISO), Pub-

lic Protection Classification," Round Rock Fire Department: "Rock Solid Safety Team," and Travis County Fire Control / Emergency Service District Four: "Targeted Neighborhood Fire Training Academy," Texas has a very progressive fire service and all the Lone Star Achievement Award nominees are very committed in providing quality services to their citizens through innovative approaches.

College Station Fire Department will receive the Lone Star Achievement Award on Thursday April 24, 2003 in conjunction with the Texas Fire Chiefs Association's annual conference which is being held at the Y.O. Ranch Resort Hotel and Conference Center in Kerrville. The Texas Fire Chiefs Association is a not-for-profit organization with 500 active members who are comprised of Fire Chiefs and other Senior Fire Officers from all types of fire departments across the state. In addition, the Association has 100 associate members representing fire service vendors, distributors, manufacturers and other individuals committed to supporting the Texas fire service. The Texas Fire Chiefs Association and its members are nationally known for their positive accomplishments to improving fire and life safety issues in Texas.

## Starlight Music Series Slated for Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater

The second Starlight Music Series, a free concert series sponsored by College Station Utilities, was kicked off on April 12th.

And a few lucky fans will also enjoy the limelight.

Radio listeners will have the opportunity to qualify for the Starlight Star Search competition, College Station's blend of the popular hit television shows American Idol and Star Search. Contestants will call in and sing on Equicom radio stations for a chance to perform before one of the first 11 concerts. There will

be four new performers at each concert, and weekly winners will be awarded Wolf Pen Creek prize packs and the chance to return to the finals at the last concert on July 19. The first place winner will be the Starlight Music Series Star and will win a \$1,000 shopping spree at Post Oak Mall. Those who suffer stage fright will also have a chance to win prizes. Anyone who attends nine of the 12 free Starlight Music Series concerts will be entered into a drawing for various giveaways, including the grand prize trip for two to the all-inclusive

Reef Club Playacar near Playa del Carmen, Mexico.

This year's concert lineup includes Leon Russell with Bobby Hall April 12; Gary P. Nunn with Randy Rogers April 26; Marshall Tucker with Tracy Conover May 3; Radney Foster with Bonnie Bishop May 10; Earl Thomas Conley with Diamondback, TX May 17; Killer Bees with I-Tex May 31; Duck Soup June 7; Trout Fishing in America with Terri Hendrix June 14; Malford Milligan and Friends June 21; Indian classical and jazz perform-

ers from Calcutta Gouri Sankar Karmakar, Indrajit Banerjee and Shankar Bhattacharyya with The Big Apple Trio June 28; Hanna's Reef July 12; and Big Otis July 19.

Gates open at 6:30 p.m., and families are encouraged to bring picnic baskets or coolers.

Last year's concert series, which was shortened to nine events because of torrential rain and lightning, brought more than 33,700 people to the Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater. This year's concert series is expected to draw an even bigger crowd.

## City Sponsors Second Regional Transportation Summit

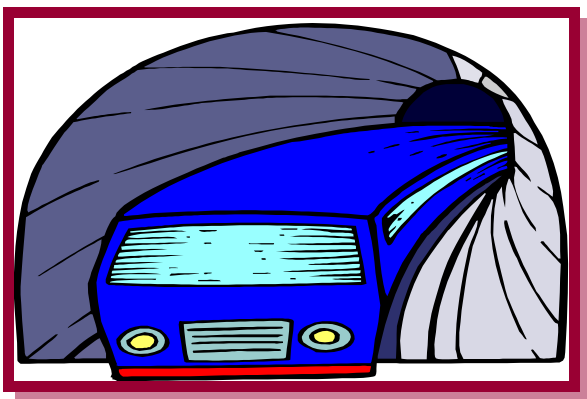
The second annual Regional Transportation Summit is scheduled for May 2, 2003 at the George Bush Presidential Conference Center. The purpose of this regional summit is to explore transportation issues impacting not only College Station but the surrounding cities and counties. In particular, the summit is designed to assess the potential impact of the Brazos Express on the region.

This year's summit will feature a number speakers that are experts on transportation related issues from both state and national levels. Summit speakers include Samuel Bonasso, Dan Reagan, and John Carter.

Bonasso currently serves as the acting Administrator of the Research and Special Programs Administration. Dan Reagan is a division administrator for the Federal Highway Administration.

John Carter serves as the US District 31 Representative.

Persons interested in attending this year's summit should contact Ken Fogle at 764-3570 for registration information. Onsite registration will also be available at the George Bush Presidential Conference Center on May 2, 2003. Anyone with an interest in regional transportation needs is welcome to attend.



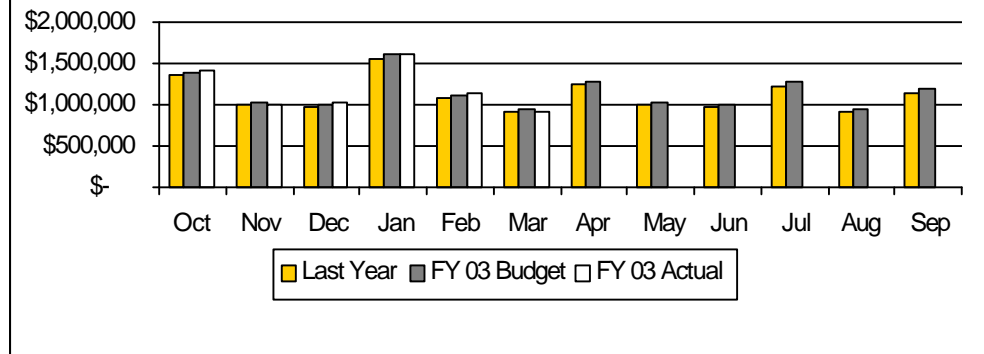
## Monthly Sales Tax

The City collected **\$911,132.40** for the month of March, **1.36%** below the same month last year. The March receipts are for sales that occurred in February. Sales tax collections for FY 03 YTD are **\$7,100,426** or **3.14%** above FY 02 collections.

Sales tax receipts are lower than the same month last year. Sales tax receipts have increased by 3.5% when comparing the last 12 months to the previous 12 months. This is positive given the overall statewide decline in sales tax revenues. Sales tax projections for next year have been lowered to 2% growth due to the uncertainty in the local economy. This uncertainty is primarily due to the state budget crisis and the impact this may have on the level of funding for higher educa-

tion in the next 2 years. Over the last 8 years sales tax growth has averaged 6% per year. In FY 03 sales tax is projected to grow by 3%. Hence, the current growth rate is in line

**FY 2003 MONTHLY  
SALES TAX REVENUE**



with growth projections. These projections will be closely reviewed given the statewide decline in sales tax revenues. We are continuing to monitor national, state, and local eco-

nomie trends to determine what impact those trends may have on sales tax receipts in FY 03 and FY 04.

## Single Family Home Permits Continue to Rise

Single Family Homes, which includes new Single Family homes and not slab onllys, continue rise. Single Family Home permits increased in quantity when compared to last year at this time, March 2002, and increased in quantity when compared with two years ago, March 2001. Year to date the number of Single Family Home permits has increased by 17% over the same

time last year and increased by 3% over the past 2 years. However, the total number of permits has decreased in quantity when compared to last year at this time, March 2002.

This decline is due to a reduction in the number of commercial permits, which includes commercial remodel.

Year to date, commercial permits decreased in quantity when compared to last year at this time, March 2002 by 5% and has decreased by 3% when compared with two years ago, March 2001.

### **BUILDING INSPECTIONS/ PERMITS**

- 8 commercial plans submitted, 9 sets of duplex plans

- submitted, 5 sets of multi-family plans submitted.
- 10 inspections per day per inspector, in addition to utility walk-through connections and miscellaneous requests. (Number based on 4 inspectors)
- 42 inspections (approximately) per day for the month of March.

Type of Permit	# of Permits	Units	Amount
Single Family	197	197	\$26,744,184.00
Duplex	10	20	\$1,473,956.00
Tri-plex/Four-Plex	0	0	\$0.00
Apartment	5	40	\$2,753,260.00
New Commercial	12	N/A	\$12,601,102.00
Commercial Re-model	23	N/A	\$2,465,612.00

## Bush School Study on "Coordinating City Services" Complete

A group of students from the George Bush School Government and Public Service was commissioned by the Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce to conduct a study of ways in which the Cities of Bryan and College Station can cooperate and benefit the business community.

The students began the study with an extensive literature review. Secondly, they compiled data related to spending for several cities comparable to Bryan and College Station. The group

then interviewed a number of department heads responsible for various services in both cities. In particular, the students focused on economic development, purchasing, sanitation, and park and recreation. The group gathered budget, personnel, and current and potential cooperative efforts related to city services.

In their review of city services, the Bush School students were looking for ways to increase cost saving and to increase quality of service or to add needed services. The study also takes into consid-

eration the ease of implementation and likelihood of success on any potential consolidation of service. The executive summary of the report highlights the numerous ways in which the two cities currently work together.

The report concluded that no significant gains are likely to result from the consolidation of any of the examined city services. However, the study does recommend that both cities make more efforts to collaborate and coordinate in a number of areas. For instance, the study recommends that the Parks

Department for both cities "collaborate athletic programming and facilities reservations". Additionally, the report recommends that the two Police Departments establish a uniform trunking system to better facilitate communication among officers. The report further suggests that some saving may be realized by merging the detention services in Bryan and College Station Police Departments.

## 2003 Citizens' University is a Success, Citizen Learn the ABC's of Local Government

The City recently completed the annual Citizen University. This is a 10 week program that consists of once weekly 3 1/2 hour classes and focuses on the City's budget, services, and activities. The purpose of Citizen University is to improve citizens understanding of city government, to develop citizen understanding of their *role* in city government, and to develop pool of knowledgeable potential elected or appointed leaders.

Citizen University is available at no charge to registered voters that have lived in College Station for at least one year, are at 21 years of age, and are not running for any public office. This year's university had 21 participants. This group of participant was a diverse group of College Station citizens, including several representatives from the College Station Independent School District, local business owners, students

and retirees.

At the end of each Citizen University, the City's Community Programs Coordinator, Peggy Calliham, surveys the participants to assess the value of the program and seek input for the next year. The following are excerpts from the responses to the survey question.

- The course was fun and informative.

- It was the best use of my time. I enjoyed getting to know other people in the community.

- The program was very enjoyable and educational.

- This was a great class.





*What's Going On?*

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**WERE ON THE WEB!**

**[WWW.CI.COLLEGE-STATION.TX.US](http://WWW.CI.COLLEGE-STATION.TX.US)**

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Embracing the Past, Exploring the Future.

### *Shining Moments*

- *A participant in this year's Citizens' University wrote to thank Peggy Calliham for all of her work in this year's Citizens' University.. This participant described the university as a HUGE success.*
- *A College Station resident wrote to thanks the College Station Police Department for their prompt and efficient response to a 5:00 a.m. noise complaint. According to the resident, the College Station Police Department makes him proud to be a Texan.*